

For Immediate Release: October 26, 2011

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Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce the release today of a ground-breaking new demographic report, *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans in the United States, 2011*, co-authored by the Asian American Justice Center and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice. This is the first in a series of demographic reports to be released on the state of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders over the next few years.

With the 2012 elections upon us, *Community of Contrasts* comes at a most opportune time. The Asian American community has grown faster than any other racial group over the past decade: More than 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, according to the report's analysis of Census data. That means more Asian Americans than ever before are poised to influence next year's presidential election, and we are ready to speak up and voice the issues that matter most to us. At the same time, our community needs citizenship assistance, voter registration and Get Out the Vote programs to ensure we reach our full potential.

Our population is also dispersed throughout the U.S. Texas now has more Asian Americans than Hawaii and a third of the states now have Asian populations greater than 225,000.

The report also found significant social and economic diversity among Asian American ethnic groups, with some enjoying prosperity and others experiencing hardship. For example, while Asian Americans have made considerable contributions to the U.S. economy over the past decade (e.g., Asian American businesses issued more than \$80 billion in payroll), other data shows that certain ethnic groups like Hmong, Bangladeshi and Cambodian Americans are among the country's poorest (e.g., nearly one in four Hmong Americans live below the poverty line). Limited fluency in English remains a significant barrier for many.

Please consider a \$25 donation so we can continue doing such important research. Visit www.advancingequality.org.

The release of today's report falls just before our 2011 Advancing Justice Conference being held at San Francisco's Hotel Kabuki October 27-28. For those of you in the Bay area this week, please join us for a panel discussion at 4 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, October 27, 2011, on the report moderated, by MSNBC anchor Richard Lui. Details can found on the Advancing Justice Conference website [here](#).

To read our findings, including what regions have seen the fastest rates of Asian American growth, information on the economic diversity of the community; immigration and demand for visas; home ownership rates; and civic engagement, download the report [here](#).

Thank you for your support,

Karen K. Narasaki

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Executive Director

Executive Director

Asian American Justice Center

Asian Pacific American Legal Center

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*The **Asian American Center for Advancing Justice** (www.advancingjustice.org) works to promote a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights and empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities, and is comprised of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C. (www.advancingequality.org), the Asian American Institute in Chicago (www.aaichicago.org), the Asian Law Caucus (www.asianlawcaucus.org) in San Francisco and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (www.apalc.org) in Los Angeles.*